

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Extension of Time/Request for Continued Examination

Requests for continued examination and a one month extension of the period for response to the outstanding final office action mailed on September 23, 2005 are enclosed. The extended period for response expires on January 23, 2006.

Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Mehrpour for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of January 17, 2006. During that interview, applicant pointed out that *automatic* illumination (or supply/non-supply of electric power) of first and second displays based on whether the second case is in a fully open or fully closed position is not disclosed by any of the references of record. The Examiner suggested that the claims be further amended to clarify this point.

Claim Status

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected as obvious over Yoon (US 6,697,083) in view of Meins (US 6,587,700). Claims 2 and 7 are rejected as obvious over Yoon in view of Meins and Moriya (US 2001/0003707). In response, independent claims 1, 2 and 5 are amended to clearly distinguish over these references.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 now require that the first display is *automatically* illuminated, and the second display *automatically* turned off, when the second case is in the *fully open* position. Moreover, claims 1, 2 and 5 require that the second display is *automatically* illuminated when the second case is in the *fully closed* position. Thus, in reference to applicant's Fig. 1, when second case 4 is in the fully open position, second display 12 (see Fig. 2) is automatically turned off and first display 11 is automatically turned on. In reference to Fig. 2, when second case 4 is in the fully closed position, second display 12 is automatically illuminated.

This automatic illumination or non-illumination, i.e., automatic supply or non-supply of power based on whether the case is opened or closed provides advantageous and important energy-saving and privacy-protecting events. Battery power is saved by avoiding waste of electric power such as by supplying electric power to display 12 when case 4 is opened and display 11 is being used. Likewise, when case 4 is closed, battery power is only supplied to display 12 and not display 11 which is unused in this position (specification, page 5, lines 7-13). Moreover, automatic turn-off of display 12 when case 4 is opened protects privacy by not allowing third parties to view display 12; only display 11 is used (specification, page 9, lines 1-5).

None of the cited references disclose or suggest this feature. As has been previously pointed out by applicant, the single, two-sided transparent display screen of Yoon is illuminated by a single illuminator that simultaneously illuminates both display screens regardless of whether the folder is in an open or closed position. Meins only teaches the use of one display screen. Moreover, the Examiner has already acknowledged, in the office action dated June 3, 2005, that Yoon and Meins do not disclose this feature. As acknowledged by the Examiner at page 5 of the June 3 action:

“Yoon modified by Meins *fails to teach* a portable device wherein the first display is illuminated only when the second case is in the open position, and wherein the second display is illuminated only when the second case is in the closed position.”

Thus, this leaves only Moriya at issue. In one embodiment, Moriya discloses a phone having a front display section 2 (Fig. 2) and a rear display section 6 (Fig. 3). There is no folding cover in this embodiment. With respect to operation of display sections 2 and 6, Moriya states in paragraph [0035] that:

“The other display section 6 may be driven selectively based on the operation of the key operation section 5. Or,

the other display section 6 may be driven at the same time as the display section 2 to display the same data as in the display section 2 or the subsequent or preceding data to the data displayed on the display section 2.”

Thus, Moriya discloses only selective user operation of displays 2 and 6 (by operation of key section 5) or simultaneous operation of displays 2 and 6. Neither mode of operation provides the energy-saving and privacy-protecting effects of applicants automatic illumination or non-illumination of the displays based on the position of the folding case (fully opened or fully closed).

With respect to the first embodiment, Moriya also discusses in paragraph [0036] that small amounts of data may be displayed on the smaller front display 2 while larger amounts of data may be displayed on the larger rear display 6. However, this has no relevance to applicant's claimed automatic turn-on and turn-off of the displays.

In a second embodiment, Moriya discloses a phone having a foldable first housing 10 on which is formed front display section 12 (Fig. 4) and rear display sections 13 and 23 (Figs. 4 and 5). However, as with the first embodiment, Moriya provides no disclosure or suggestion of automatic illumination or non-illumination of its various displays depending on the position of housing 10. As to use of the displays, Moriya merely states in paragraph [0042]:

...since the second and third display sections 13 and 23 are provided for the back surfaces of the first and second housing sections 10 and 20, necessary data can be displayed on the second and third display sections 13 and 23 in the state in which the first housing section 10 and the second housing section 20 are folded. As a result, the necessary data can be confirmed without opening the radio apparatus...

A similar statement is made in paragraph [0047]. This merely discloses that the rear display sections can be operated when the case is closed. There is no

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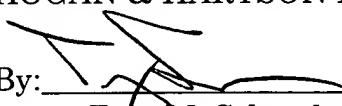
Attorney Docket No. 81922.0005
Customer No. 26021

discussion at all as to how the display sections are illuminated, and certainly no disclosure or suggestion of applicant's method which maximizes energy savings and privacy. Moriya does not disclose or suggest, as required by applicant's claims, that rear displays 13, 23 are automatically turned off and front display 12 automatically turned on when housing 10 is fully opened. Likewise, there is no disclosure that front display 12 is automatically turned off when housing 10 is in a fully closed position.

For these reasons, applicant submits that claims 1-7 are not rendered obvious by Yoon, Meins and Moriya, and that the rejections under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response, including extension fees and fees for requesting continued examination , may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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